

City of Detroit

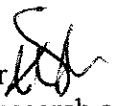
CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Kwame Kenyatta, Chair
Internal Operations Standing Committee

FROM: David Whitaker 
City Council Research and Analysis Division

DATE: April 23, 2008

RE: **SECOND STATUS UPDATE REGARDING PROPOSED
CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

The City Council Research and Analysis Division (RAD) provides this second status update regarding Council Member Kwame Kenyatta's request for proposed amendatory language for City Charter Section 6-401, *Law Department*, as well as Council Member Brenda Jones' request for proposed amendatory language for Section 7-1102, *Board of Police Commissioners*.

These matters are currently being discussed with the Governmental Affairs Division of the Law Department under the aegis of Dennis Mazurek, who is the supervisor of Tonja Long, counsel to the Elections Commission.¹ The Rules Committee recently referred the assignment with respect to section 7-1102 to the Law Department. Staff from RAD and Law have discussed modeling this section on the appointment provisions of section 2-106 governing the board of ethics. Specifically, as requested by this committee, the five-member board would consist of two City Council appointments, two Mayoral appointments, and one joint appointment.

As noted in RAD's previous memo, Law must review and approve proposed ballot questions before the City Election Commission² certifies the language. Law's involvement in the drafting process should facilitate this review and approval. Following certification by the Election Commission, the ballot language must be forwarded to both the Governor and the Attorney General for approval. The County Clerk must receive the

¹ The Corporation Counsel serves on the Election Commission, as does the City Clerk and the City Council President.

² The Election Commission meets the first Monday of the month.

certified language seventy (70) days before the election, *i.e.*, August 26, 2008 for placement on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot. RAD intends to submit proposed language to this committee within the next two weeks to allow submission to the June 2, 2008 Election Commission meeting.